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PROGRAM TH

The Rowan Report

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SUBJECT

FBI and CIA

CARL ROWAN: It's been almost ten years now since the FBI and CIA were gravely damaged by revelations of outrageous violations of law and abuses of people's rights at home and abroad. The reputations of some top officials at both agencies were ruined, and Congress imposed tougher controls. Americans told themselves it would be a long time before anyone in those agencies tried that stuff again.

Well, it looks like a long time has passed. There's evidence that people in the CIA and FBI are trying that stuff again, as I'll report right after this message from Chrysler Corporation.

ROWAN: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan recently raised the question of whether the CIA is complying with the law in its operations in Central America. Moynihan said many senators believe that the agency is involved in efforts to overthrow the government of Nicaraqua, despite the Omnibus Appropriations bill

for this fiscal year that prohibits such American support.

In the name of preventing communism from spreading in this hemisphere, the administration seems to be encouraging the CIA to do everything it did in Chile and elsewhere a decade ago. At the same time, the FBI, in the name of fighting terrorism or anticipating and preventing crime, proposes again to infiltrate many groups that the FBI or the Attorney General designates as violence prone.

It may sound fine to have the FBI place informers inside

unpopular groups like the Ku Klux Klan, until you remember that the federal government even now is being sued for millions by people who claimed that FBI informers were the perpetrators and agitators of a lot of KKK crime.

Moreover, the infiltrations start out with terrorist-type groups, but soon the nuclear freeze, anti-draft, civil rights, women's rights and other groups become targets. Then we're back to Co-and-Tel-Pro [?], the discredited old FBI scheme to disrupt and destory groups on the hit list of the director, the attorney general or both.

Current FBI Director William Webster restored most of the Bureau's respect by operating it under stricter guidelines. But this administration likes some of the old procedures and thinks that it can restore them while the public dozes.

One FBI veteran recently claimed that he had particiated in two illegal entries on behalf of the Bureau. He may or may not have been telling the truth, but whatever the case, it's bad for both the FBI and its director's fine reputation to have these charges surfacing again.

Such charges become more believable when people note that the FBI has jumped out front in efforts to mangle the Freedom of Information Act, and that a move has sprung up in this administration to give the CIA authority to infiltrate domestic groups. Also, when you consider that President Reagan has made it harder for the public to get foreign policy information by ordering secret declassification stamped on documents and data never before given secrecy lables.

Congress had better stand up the way it did in 1974 and 1975 when revelations of CIA and FBI abuses so outraged the nation. Attorneys general and CIA directors must not operate under whatever set of guidelines they like. Congress ought to set the rules for the FBI and the CIA and ensure that incumbent directors abide by them.

This is Carl Rowan.

nail for a month was forced to admit he didn't have the votes, and Kasten did. The result: a deal on Kasten's terms. No tax withholding on interest and dividends until 1987 and then only if the General Accounting Office finds and both Houses of Congress agree that there is significant tax cheating on investment income. Banks and savings & loans mounted a huge lobbying and mail drive against the law passed last year that would require starting this July 10% of all interest and dividends to be withheld for taxes. It isn't a new tax, but the paperwork was enough to make the banks oppose it, and they got millions of customers to join their campaign to repeal the law. The compromise finally agreed to isn't repeal, but Kasten said it's just as good. KASTEN: In my opinion, the possibility of ever having withholding on interest and dividend income is very remote.

HUME: But would the administration buy it? Treasury Secretary Regan indicated not. REGAN: My own personal position as well as that of the administration is that we should stand firm. The president last Saturday said that he would veto it, and when he says something, he usually sticks to it.

HUME: The secretary may talk that way now, but the Senate seems likely to pass the Kasten plan tomorrow, and there is at least as much anti-withholding sentiment in the House, so there seems a good chance the president, instead of casting a veto that Congress might well override, will decide to go along with this deal. Brit Hume, ABC News, on Capitol Hill.

REYNOLDS: In a moment, more on the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. ABC News has now learned that more CIA agents were killed in the attack. We'll also have a report on those Libyan planes caught sending arms to Nicaragua, and later in this broadcast, did a Brink's truck holdup lead to a much larger crime ring involving drugs and prostitution?

APO3 LEBANON/ EMBASSY EXPLOSION REYNOLDS: Now the Middle East. We reported last night that the CIA's senior Middle East analyst Robert Ames was among those killed in Monday's bombing. ABC News has now learned that in addition to Ames, three other CIA agents in Beirut, the entire U.S. contingent, were killed in the bombing. At the White House today, flags were flying at half staff in mourning for the Americans killed in Beirut. A high level U.S. delegation leaves for Beirut tomorrow to escort the remains of the dead Americans back to this country. Now once again in Beirut, here is Peter Jennings. Peter?

JENNINGS: Frank, here at the embassy itself, they keep digging and finding more bodies today. It's a slow process. Ambassador Dillon said it may be some time before the full extent of American and Lebanese losses are known. Nine Americans have been found dead. Eight are still missing and presumed dead. Thirty-two Lebanese have been found dead. No one is certain how many are missing. The ambassador rejected speculation that

Philip Habib, the president's envoy, was supposed to be in the embassy when the explosion occurred. Lebanese security continues to pick up and interrogate a variety of people. That doesn't mean they are any closer to discovering who actually did it. Here's ABC's Mike McCourt.

MCCOURT: When the bomb exploded on Monday, one of the embassy staff's highest priorities in the midst of the flaming chaos all around was to protect and save vital classified papers. They got them out any way they could. Today as the search progressed for additional bodies in the wreckage, senior embassy officials were continuing their hunt for more sensitive material. A short distance away Marine guards were burning damaged files outside a temporary embassy headquarters. Inside, staff members, many of them injured, were back at work. *Dundas McCollough was buried in a consular section when the bomb went off. MCCOLLOUGH: I struggled to stand erect. I thought what might kill me aside from the explosion was suffocation.

MCCOURT: Other survivors say the blast was at first like a rushing wind until the building caved in. JOHN REID (Press Attache): I mean, I remember trying to dig myself out, and then a couple of the officers from OMC came and helped me out into the hallway, and I could walk.

MCCOURT: In spite of the shock and trauma of Monday, the entire surviving staff, according to Ambassdor Robert Dillon, wants only to get back to normal. DILLON: We have begun operations. I would not call it full operations, but we're trying very hard to get back into operation.

MCCOURT: For others, though, this week has not been a matter of firm resolve to carry on as before. This Lebanese woman has been waiting since Monday for news of her husband. She has heard nothing but insists on staying here day and night until she does, and late this afternoon another woman who had also been waiting identified a red sweater. It belonged to her husband, and it was all she found. Mike McCourt, ABC News, in Beirut.

JENNINGS: One other note from here tonight about the Lebanese foreign minister. Before the Israeli invasion last summer, Elie Salem was a professor at Beirut's American University. He gave a news conference today, and to borrow a phrase, he's mad as hell, and he doesn't want his country to take it any more. What about the attack on the embassy? SALEM: Lebanon is sick and tired of such *anomic behavior on its territory.

JENNINGS: Salem, who went to university in the states, is one of those unusual Lebanese who cares less for his religion or clan than his nation, and what fosters his anger is Lebanon's inability to prevent other nations and their gunmen manipulating the body politic here. SALEM: Israel fights the PLO. The real victim is Lebanon. Syria fights Israel. The real victim is

Lebanon. America and the Soviets compete inside Lebanon. real victim is Lebanon.

JENNINGS: Lebanon's preoccupation at the moment is how to get rid of these Israeli troops. After that, if it happens, it will be how to get rid of the Syrians and the PLO and the Iranians and all the others who serve as surrogates for more powerful forces than Lebanon. SALEM: Lebanon is frankly frustrated by the efforts of the others to make of Lebanon a security zone for themselves.

JENNINGS: But that's the way it is and has been. It is often said here what this country needs is a miracle. Frank?

APO4 REAGAN/ADDRESS REYNOLDS: Thank you, Peter. It was announced today that President Reagan will address a joint session of the Congress next Wednesday night. The subject: increased aid for El Salvador and other Central American countries. A House committee voted yesterday against the president's request for an additional \$50 million for El Salvador.

APO5 BRAZIL/ LIBYAN PLANES

REYNOLDS: It's likely that in his speech the president will refer to those Libyan cargo planes that stopped in Brazil and were then found to be carrying arms and explosives for Nicaragua. Pentagon correspondent John McWethy has more on how that incident occurred.

MCWETHY: ABC News has learned that the four planes left Libya last weekend, refueled in Mauritania on the west coast of Africa, then were headed for Manaus, Brazil, and eventually Nicaragua when one of the aircraft, an American-made C-130, developed mechanical problems. All four planes then landed at the Brazilian city of Recife. After some delays, three of the planes, Russian-made *Aleutians, flew to Manaus, a Brazilian city in the Amazon Jungle en route to Nicaragua. All this time, the Libyan pilots were claiming that they had medical supplies aboard. The pilot of the C-130, according to Brazilian sources, finally admitted under questioning that there were more than medical supplies on his plane, and Brazil ordered all of the aircraft seized. Brazilian and American sources now say there are no medical supplies as originally stated by the Libyan government. Instead there are weapons, explosives and military spare parts, all of which have now been unloaded and seized by the government of Brazil. Libya's leader, Col. Muammar Khadafy, is quoted as saying today that he 'regrets the dishonesty of one of his civil aviation officials who misled Brazil about what was on the plane.' Brazil has filed a protest. U.S. sources say there were several Russians among the 40 crew members on the aircraft. The Reagan administration has been accusing the Soviet Union of supplying weapons to the leftist regime in Nicaragua through such middlemen as Libya and Cuba, but the president has lacked hard evidence. Now thanks to Brazil, he has the proof. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.

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